

would they have supported the auto rescue when the support from the government—the loans from the government, if you will—went to Chrysler and GM, not to Ford and Honda? Because they knew the importance of the supply chain. Because the supply chain for Chrysler and GM had collapsed, as it would have if those two companies had gone into bankruptcy and not been restructured and financed so they could come out of bankruptcy. If that had happened, the supply chain for Ford and Honda also would have partially collapsed. We see evidence of that in what happened with the tsunami in Japan, where Honda and others had to shut down for a period of time because they couldn't get the supply components they needed—some of them—from Japan.

So the point is that we stepped in with the auto rescue not just for Chrysler and GM, not just for Honda and Ford in my State—where 800,000 jobs, it is officially estimated, are affiliated with the auto industry—but also because it was important for these jobs at our tier 1 suppliers. Some of these tier 1 suppliers were about to collapse. So the rescue of the auto industry also directly helped to rescue some of those tier 1 suppliers. I have seen those tier 1 suppliers—Magnum in a suburb of Toledo. I have been there; Johnson Controls, which makes seats in Warren, OH—they make seats for the Chevy Cruze. I left that one out. All those tier 1 suppliers were in trouble.

We also knew the tier 2, 3, and 4 suppliers for the auto industry—making components you might not know what they were for or recognize them if you held them in your hands but that go into the Chrysler and the Ford and the GM and the Honda—were not able to get financing many times, and so we helped them through that with the auto rescue.

So the point is that what Vice President BIDEN saw in Youngstown and in Lordstown, OH, and what I hear in Dayton and Columbus and Mansfield and in Toledo and Rossford and Parma and all over my State is these workers saying they understand this auto rescue, where the government invested because nobody else would have—these companies are paying these investments, and that rescue saved all these jobs. It is why manufacturing is beginning to turn around.

There are other factors, of course, and one of them is the President of the United States enforcing trade law. We see a new steel mill in Youngstown in part because the President stood up to the Chinese and enforced trade law when the Chinese were gaming the system on something called oil country tubular steel, used in drilling for oil and for natural gas. All of that has mattered to this manufacturing job growth.

We are not there yet. We need the administration to step up on a real policy for manufacturing, a real strategy. I think they are starting to do that on

better tax law, better trade law, and better enforcement of trade laws. We want to assist manufacturing when we can partner with them—not picking winners and losers but understanding that to create wealth, you either grow it, you mine it, or you make it. My State does all three and does it very well and will continue to do so with this kind of partnership as we move forward.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENHANCED ISRAELI MISSILE DEFENSE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on April 19, 2012, I introduced S. 2325, the Iron Dome Support Act, along with my colleagues Senators BOXER and KIRK. This bipartisan bill authorizes further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system. As of today, 17 of our colleagues have also joined us on this bill, because we all recognize that an investment in the Iron Dome is an investment in peace and security in the region.

The Iron Dome system uses small radar-guided missiles to blow up Katyusha rockets and mortar bombs in midair coming from 3 to 45 miles away—and can do so in any weather condition. The Israeli Defense Force reports that Iron Dome has already proven itself to be 90 percent successful intercepting rockets well before they could potentially hit residential neighborhoods, busy highways, shopping centers, or crowded streets in southern Israel.

This is an incredible piece of technology. Right now, there are 3 Iron Dome batteries in the south of the country. But Israel remains vulnerable to attacks on other fronts from terrorist groups. That is why I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2325. Increased support for this legislation will send a strong message to include additional funding for Iron Dome batteries in order to protect all of Israel.

The Iron Dome is just one of the ways the United States supports Israeli missile defense. The Arrow Weapons System and David Sling protect Israel

from medium and long distance threats to the country's existence.

We are developing these systems in cooperation with the Israeli government, so we can harvest the technology for future American systems. Our backing is important to keep the deployment of these systems on track as they must keep pace with the aggressive development of threat missiles.

As the markup of the various defense bills moves ahead this month and next, I urge my colleagues to fully support the accelerated deployment of anti-missile systems vital to the survival of our Israeli allies.

TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his inauguration as President of Taiwan. From his education at Harvard University, to becoming the youngest cabinet minister in the history of Taiwan, to his election to the Presidency of Taiwan in 2008, President Ma has faced difficult challenges. As Justice Minister he took on the task of rooting out political corruption. As President he has faced the daunting charge of navigating Taiwan through the economic downturn, and after just a few years Taiwan has seen successful economic growth. In addition, President Ma has made notable progress in improving cross-strait relations. During his first term, he successfully negotiated 16 trade agreements with the People's Republic of China, increasing economic cooperation between these two countries.

For all of his hard work and success, I congratulate President Ma and wish him well on his second term in office. I hope the U.S. and Taiwan can continue to advance our shared interests and goals and to strengthen our valued relationship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

• Mrs. BOXER. Later this month, California residents and visitors from around the world will gather to celebrate the 75th anniversary of a beloved California landmark: the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Golden Gate Bridge is without doubt one of the greatest structures of the 20th century. This seamless stretch of cables and steel beams was the vision of renowned bridge architect and engineer Joseph Strauss, whose prior experience prepared him to design the longest suspension bridge of its day, which many said could never be built.

But built it was, even in the middle of the Great Depression. After more than 4 years of construction, the Bridge opened on May 27, 1937. Hailed as an architectural masterpiece for its complex construction and structural elegance, it soon became a cornerstone